



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

16 April 2008

### IRQ102801.E

Iraq: The following three non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Al-Noor Humanitarian Organization, the Iraqi Children's Rights Network and Al Nasser Neighbourhood Council; how they are funded; names of founders; the coordinators of the Iraqi Children's Rights Network between 2006 and 2007  
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

#### Al-Noor Humanitarian Organization

Sources indicate that the Al-Noor Humanitarian Organization is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO) with the Planning Ministry and the Institutions of Civil Society Ministry in Iraq and was founded in 2003 (Playground Builders n.d.; Morris Winter 2007/2008) as a voluntary committee (ibid.). According to an article written by the Director of a Canadian organization dedicated to peacebuilding and conflict transformation called Peacemakers Trust (Peacemakers Trust n.d.), and published by the Institute for Dispute Resolution at the University of Victoria, the Al-Noor Humanitarian Organization is non-partisan and operates in Al-Nasr City within Baghdad in addition to other cities (Morris Winter 2007/2008). The organization's activities include distributing aid to both Shia and Sunni families, removing explosive materials and debris, repairing schools, improving security for school children, and repairing and maintaining utilities (ibid.).

In correspondence with the Research Directorate, the Executive Coordinator at the NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI), a network of approximately 80 international NGOs and 200 Iraqi NGOs that provides a forum for the exchange of information and the coordination of humanitarian activities and emergency aid (NCCI n.d.), stated that the Al-Noor Humanitarian Organization operates in various regions of Iraq "supporting vulnerable people" and has encountered many "security incidents and threats" (ibid. 8 Apr. 2008).

The article names Anwer al-Edhari as the Chair of the Al-Noor Humanitarian Organization in Baghdad (Morris Winter 2007/2008). Playground Builders, a charitable organization based in Whistler, British Columbia that builds playgrounds for children in the Middle East, lists "Oxfam, ICS, (Italy), UNICEF, UPP (Italy), and Save the Children's Fund (UK)" among Al-Noor's partners (Playground Builders n.d.).

#### Iraq Child Rights Network

The Iraq Child Rights Network is a national alliance of non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) and activists that focuses on needs specific to children in Iraq (Iraqi Child Rights Network 19 June 2007, Art. 2). It is guided by international human rights commitments, especially the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (ibid.) and states its mission as follows:

Raising the status of the Iraqi child using all the available possible means for creating childhood that enjoys stable, safe, developed and healthy life

[C]oordinating and working with the official bodies to activate the laws concerned with children in Iraq according to humanitarian standards based on the international children conventions. (ibid., Art. 5)

The Network was founded in 2005 with the support of UNICEF, several NGOs including Save the Children UK and Terre des Hommes Italia and Iraqi civil society organizations (UN 30 Mar. 2008). It receives funds from local, regional and international grants as well as internal donations from members and external donations from institutions and individuals (Iraqi Child Rights Network 19 June 2007, Art. 20). Coordination staff includes a general coordinator and geographical coordinators for three areas including North, Central and South Iraq (ibid., Art. 21). In correspondence with the Research Directorate, the Chief of Child Protection at UNICEF Iraq Support Centre in Amman cautioned that information on members is unavailable due to security concerns (UN 30 Mar. 2008). The Iraq Coordinator at Save the Children UK shared these concerns and was therefore unable to provide names and contact details for the Iraqi Child Rights Network in Baghdad (Save the Children UK 7 Apr. 2008). The Executive Coordinator of NCCI stated that she did not know the organization (NCCI 8 Apr. 2008).

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN), a global information network that disseminates information on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and child rights amongst NGOs, UN agencies, and other parties concerned with children's rights (CRIN n.d.), states that the inaugural meeting of the Iraqi Child Rights Network was held from 17-19 June 2007 in Sulaimanyah and included elections for a "Network general coordinator and other positions" (ibid. 12 July 2007). CRIN provides the name of Nazim Ahmed Ali as the General Coordinator (ibid.). Modern Discussion, an English version of an Arabic language website containing media news on rights issues including "secularism, democracy, human rights, women's rights, development, environment, human heritage" (Modern Discussion n.d.), posted a press release dated 19 June 2007 that also names Nazim Ahmed Ali as the General Coordinator (ibid. 19 June 2007). In addition, the press release names Ghassan Shamki Al-Salh as the South Coordinator and Foz Al-Atia as the Centre Coordinator (ibid.). There is no mention of a North Coordinator (ibid.).

### **Al Nasser Neighbourhood Council**

In correspondence received from the NCCI, the Executive Coordinator stated that the Al Nasser Neighbourhood Council was heard to have been working in a "very insecure" area of Baghdad but that NCCI had not worked with the organization and therefore did not have any reliable information on it (NCCI 8 Apr. 2008). Further information on the Al Nasser Neighbourhood Council was not available among the sources consulted by Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time

constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

Child Rights Information Network (CRIN). 12 July 2007. "Iraq: Child Rights Network Launched." <<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=14008>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2008]

\_\_\_\_\_. N.d. "About CRIN." <<http://www.crin.org/about/index.asp>> [Accessed 11 Apr. 2008]

Iraqi Child Rights Network. 19 June 2007. "Iraqi Child Rights Network Bylaws." Sent by the Chief of Child Protection at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Iraq Support Centre in Amman, Jordan on 30 Mar. 2008.

Modern Discussion. 19 June 2007. "Establishment of the Iraqi Child Rights Network (ICRN)." <<http://www.ahewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?aid=103148>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2008]

\_\_\_\_\_. N.d. "Main page - English." <<http://www.ahewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?aid=103148>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2008]

Morris, Catherine. Winter 2007/2008. "Iraq and Humanitarian Aid." *Working Together*. Institute for Dispute Resolution, University of Victoria. <<http://dispute.resolution.uvic.ca/newsletters/Winter%202007%202008.pdf>> [Accessed 12 Mar. 2008]

NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI). 8 April 2008. Correspondence received from the Executive Coordinator.

\_\_\_\_\_. N.d. "Welcome to NCCI Website." <<http://www.ncciraq.org/>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2008]

Peacemakers Trust. N.d. "Welcome to Peacemakers Trust." <<http://www.peacemakers.ca/>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2008]

Playground Builders. N.d. "About Us." <<http://www.playgroundbuilders.org/about2.html>> [Accessed 12 Mar. 2008]

Save the Children UK. 7 April 2008. Correspondence received from the Iraq Coordinator, Middle East and North Africa.

United Nations (UN). 30 March 2008. UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Correspondence received from the Chief of Child Protection.

### Additional Sources Consulted

**Oral sources, including:** A representative from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was unable to provide information that

could be released in a public forum.

**The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.**